

*Lawmakers examine reports of errors in the treatment of veterans*

Philadelphia, PA - Today, Congressman John Adler, the only Philadelphia-area member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, joined Senator Arlen Specter (D-PA) at a congressional field hearing investigating reports that the VA Hospital in Philadelphia did not do enough to prevent medical misconduct.

"This hearing is the first step in a necessary process to discover who is responsible for this outrageous lack of oversight and hold them accountable," Congressman Adler said. "This can't be allowed to happen again. Our American heroes deserve the best possible medical care."

Reverend Ricardo Flippin, Air Force veteran, told the lawmakers of the poor treatment that he received at the hospital. In addition, Congressman Adler and Senator Specter questioned Dr. Gary Kao and a representative from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, about what went wrong, and how these errors could have been ignored for so many years.

On Monday, June 22, Congressman Adler sent a letter to House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Bob Filner calling on the Committee to hold a hearing to fully investigate the matter.

Over the past six years, the Philadelphia VA Medical Center implanted 116 men with radioactive devices designed to treat prostate cancer. Of the 116 procedures, 92 were done incorrectly and nearly 80% of patients treated with this type of cancer therapy received either too little or too much radiation.

The Philadelphia VA serves more than eight counties in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Congressman Adler represents more than 60,000 veterans, including residents of Burlington and Camden County who seek medical treatment regularly at the Philadelphia VA Hospital.